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From:	Rajiv Jhangiani
Sent:	Friday, March 25, 2022 8:16 PM
Cc:	Teaching and Learning Commons
Subject:	Updates: Department listening tour, Learning Technologies Advisory Committee, Teaching & Learning Innovation Fund, & HR's new guidelines for hiring casual employees or student assistants
Attachments:	TLIF Report 2021-22.pdf; T&L summary of new HR guidelines to hire casual employees and student assistants.pdf

KPU | Teaching & Learning Commons

Dear faculty colleagues,

It was a little over two years ago that KPU paused instruction for two days (March 17 & 18, 2020) as we initiated the "great pivot" to emergency remote instruction, and I marvel at how far we have progressed since then. With our return to campus now underway, I join you in hoping that the worst days of the pandemic are behind us. I also wanted to take this opportunity to share four relevant updates with you:

Department Listening Tour

As many of you know, the Teaching & Learning Commons is about to embark on a strategic planning process that will help determine our priorities, goals, and associated strategies for the next few years. Although we will continue to seek your input through faculty-wide surveys and discussions at representative bodies such as Faculty Councils and the Senate Standing Committee on Teaching and Learning, I am also in the midst of a listening tour of academic departments across KPU. Given the size of our institution and the large number of programs this is quite a time-consuming process; however, I know from my former experience as a faculty member at KPU that there is really no substitute for conversations at the department level. It has been a sincere pleasure to hear directly from so many of you about your thoughts and aspirations for the future of teaching and learning at KPU. In recent weeks I have visited 22 departments: Anthropology, Philosophy, Business, Mathematics, Applied Communications, Language and Cultures, English, English Language Studies, Accounting, Sustainable Agriculture, Educational Studies, Psychology, English, Bachelor of Science in Nursing-Advanced Entry program, Marketing, Economics, Sociology, Computer Science & Information Technology, Business Quantitative Studies, Criminology, Computer Business Systems, and Fine Arts (with more to come).

Learning Technologies Advisory Committee

In an email to you in December I highlighted our plan to establish an ad hoc committee of early adopters to provide us with feedback about our technology tools and to serve as a user test group when adopting new platforms. I am pleased to report that this committee has now been established and had its first meeting. The committee was selected to ensure representation across areas and to diversify the expertise and interests brought forward by the members. This ad hoc committee (which replaces the historical Moodle advisory group) is not a decision-making body but rather an information sharing conduit for KPU learning technology infrastructure, as members may participate in the evaluation of existing tools as well as the pilot testing of new ones.

Teaching & Learning Innovation Fund

As we approach the end of the first full fiscal year of the restructured Teaching & Learning Innovation Fund I wanted to share a brief summary of the impact of this program. I am delighted that we have gone from 5-10% uptake of the old Scholarly Inquiry Grants program to 130% uptake of this much more flexible and inclusive internal funding opportunity (support for additional funding for the program was secured in the middle of the fiscal year in order to meet demand).

As you will see in the attached summary (which will also be presented at Senate Standing Committees), a total of 11 TLIF projects were supported over the past year across 5 Faculties, with $65,000 in funds allocated to advance projects related to new resource development, educational media, pilot programs, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. A third of the funds were used to hire student or research assistants. I was heartened to learn that 100% of TLIF award recipients recommend that their colleagues consider applying to this fund. I am also glad to confirm that our adjudication process has managed to adhere to the promised maximum of 14 days, which has helped ensure that the TLIF functions as a rapid innovation fund.

T&L Guide to HR's New Guidelines for Hiring Casual Employees and Student Assistants
As many of you will already know, an audit conducted by KPU's Business Performance and Advisory Services (BPAS) unit has led to a series of changes being implemented (from April 1, 2022) in the process through which casual employees and students are hired. These changes were approved by KPU's Board of Governors and are now being managed by Human Resources. As with all other departments at KPU, the Office of Teaching and Learning is obligated to follow these new guidelines and associated processes, including for TLIF and OER grant-funded projects that involve hiring casual employees or student assistants. Accordingly, I have worked with HR to clarify and demystify the steps now required, while also identifying a couple of ways in which the new process may be expedited (please see attached for a summary). I hope you find this helpful.

I look forward to sharing more updates with you soon. As always, the Commons team is here for you so please don't hesitate to reach out if you need any assistance.

With gratitude,
Rajiv

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At KPU, we work, study, and live in a region south of the Fraser River which overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral lands of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt, and Kwikwetlen peoples.